

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY China/USSR

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SUBJECT Economic Information: Soviet Charges on Food Items Entering the USSR

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Note: Following is an exact translation of a Torgprodsvto list of 19 February 1948 which gives the total charges to be collected on certain food items to be mailed or taken into the USSR. It will be noted that the list was established in April 1936. The fact that the charges have been converted to Chinese National Currency would seem to indicate that they are collected in advance. An Inturist advertisement appearing in the 8 March issue of the Shanghai Novosti Dnya indicates that:

- a) the weight of the parcels may not exceed 21 pounds /an increase over the previous weight allowance of 10 pounds/;
- b) the value of items may not exceed GBC \$3,300,000/US \$9.00 at the black market exchange of the day, US \$21.00 at the official rate at the time of the advertisement, or US \$15.00 at the present official rate/;
- c) parcels are accepted daily until 4 p.m. except on days when a Soviet ship is in port.

There is no mention in the advertisement of further charges to be collected. Russian emigres who have been questioned regarding the cost of shipping food parcels have stated that the cost of sending most of the articles listed on the following pages is prohibitive. In a January issue of the New York Russkoye Slovo /Russian-language Communist newspaper/ there are six advertisements regarding the shipment of food parcels to the USSR. Prices quoted include "all charges" but do not indicate further charges to be collected from the recipient, nor do they enumerate charges similar to those on the following list.)

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USSR Representative in China

List #1

of items permitted to enter USSR through licensed mail
or carried by hand:

1.00 Soviet ruble equivalent to US\$ 0.19

item #	description of item	Total surcharge in rubles per kilogram as of 1 April 1936	Price in CNC as of 15 Feb., 1948. Exchange rate: US\$ 1.00 equals CNC 151,428.57
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1.	2	3	4
1.	Sugar, refined	0.65	18,570.
2.	sugar, granulated	0.50	14,300.
3.	tea	10.00	285,700.
4.	coffee, ground, roasted	6.00	171,430.
5.	flour, mixed variety	0.55	15,710.
6.	flour, rye	0.35	10,000.
7.	buckwheat	0.50	14,300.
8.	rice	0.90	25,710.
9.	barley, pearl	0.35	10,000.
10.	semolina	0.70	20,000.
11.	butter, fresh	2.30	65,710
12.	cheese, mixed variety	2.80	80,000
13.	lard, tallow, melted lard	3.00	85,710.
14.	sausage, mixed smoked meats, meat fresh	3.50	100,000.
15.	bacon, smoked	2.20	62,860.
16.	soap, household	0.65	18,570.
17.	macaroni, noodles vermicelli	0.50	14,300.
18.	cocoa	8.00	228,570.

continued

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items #	description of item	Total surcharge in rubles per kilogram as of 1 April 1936	Price in CNC as of 15 Feb., 1948. Exchange rate: US\$ 1.00 equals CNC 151,428.57
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1.	2.	3.	4.
19.	fruits, berries, fresh, not canned	50% of value	
20.	fruits, berries, dried or preserved	75% of value	
21.	spices	100% of value	
22.	chocolate and candy	6.00	171,430.
23.	"Nestle" powder	8.00	228,570.
24.	tobacco, cut and tobacco products	60% of value	
25.	milk, condensed	2.00	57,140.
26.	products, dairy, vacuum packed	2.80	80,000.
27.	products, other than above mentioned, not vacuum packed	4.00	114,290.
28.	products, various ^{other} than above mentioned, vacuum packed	4.00	114,290.
29.	meat products, canned	3.20	91,430.
30.	soap, toilet	17.50	500,000.

In case licenses (import) are issued to passengers who are carrying these items by hand, surcharges shall be collected in accordance with lists #1 and #2 according to type of merchandise with an additional charge:

products (commodities)	1.30	37,430.
industrial goods	10% of value	
Inturist commission	1.10	31,430.
Torgpredstvo commission	0.44	12,570.

USSR Trade representative in China

signed:

D. Shcherbina

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